

Statement of True Translation

I, SHIMODA Akira, translator to the Tokyo IP Firm. Kyobashi-Nichiei Bldg. 4F, Kyobashi 3-chome 34, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, hereby declare that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages and am a competent translator thereof. I declare further that to the best of my knowledge and belief the following is a true and correct translation of Japanese Patent Application No. JP2004-084518.

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METHOD FOR PRODUCING POLYPYRIDINIUM

Field of the Invention

[0001]

The present invention relates to a method for producing polypyridinium and more particularly to a method for producing polypyridinium that can control molecular weight distribution.

Prior Art

[0002]

Pyridinium derivatives are ionic molecules having photoelectrochemical oxidation-reduction capability. Taking advantage of this characteristic, pyridinium derivatives are used in a broad range of applications such as chromic materials, disinfecting surfactants and the like. These functions are observed due to the formation of pyridinyl radicals during an oxidation-reduction process and the interaction among them. Therefore, a polycationic polypyridinium constructed from minimal units comprising pyridinium linked into a conjugated chain is a very interesting, strongly interrelated polymer with a multistage oxidation-reduction property. Reports on the synthesis of such a polymer through a halopyridine self-condensation have been published (References 1-3). However, the polymerization mechanism has not been elucidated and the molecular weight has not been controlled due to the low solubility of the polymer obtained.

[0003]

Reference 1: Recueil Vol. 78, 593-603 (1959)

Reference 2: Journal of Polymer Science: part C, No. 16, pp. 369-375 (1967)

Reference 3: Polymer International 35 (1994) 67-74

Problems to be solved by the Invention

[0004]

The present invention provides a method for producing polypyridinium having a regulated molecular weight. "Regulated molecular weight" means that a polymer can be obtained with a desired molecular weight while maintaining a narrow molecular weight distribution, such as a ratio of the weight average molecular weight to the number average molecular weight of 1.5 or less.

Means to solve the Problems

[0005]

The inventors studied a consecutive chain polymerization using pyridinium salt as an initiator and investigated the reactivity of a 4-chloropyridine monomer and polypyridinium synthesis. As a result, the inventors discovered a production method for a polypyridinium having a regulated molecular weight and the present invention was completed.

[0006]

That is, the present invention is a method for producing polypyridinium comprising reacting

(1) a polymerization initiator represented by the chemical formula below
[Chemical Formula 1]



where R represents R"(CH₂)_n, wherein R" represents a hydrocarbon group or a heterocyclic group and n represents an integer that is at least one, or an aryl group or a heterocyclic ring that may contain substituents, however, the heterocyclic group has its carbon atom bonded to the nitrogen atom in the pyridine ring, R' represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, a nitro group, an ester group or an aromatic ring forming a condensed ring with the pyridine ring, m is an integer from 1 to 4, X represents a halogen atom and Y represents an anion soluble in the organic solvent, with

(2) a monomer represented by the chemical formula below,
[Chemical Formula 2]



where Z represents a halogen atom, and R' and m are, independently, defined as above,
in an organic solvent in the presence of a dissolution accelerating agent comprising hydrophobic anions.

Advantages of the Invention

[0007]

A conventional halopyridine thermal polymerization proceeds self-catalytically. That means that the rate of nucleophilic reaction on the carbon in position four in the halopyridinium structure in the growth termini of the dimer [N-(4-halopyridinio) pyridine] or the oligomer formed is overwhelmingly faster than the rate of nucleophilic reaction on the carbon in position four of the halopyridine monomer in the initial polymerization stage. This difference is attributed to the electron density in the initiator and the position four carbon in the halopyridinium structure seen in the growth termini being sufficiently lower than the electron density of the position four carbon in the halopyridine monomer and nucleophilic attack by the nitrogen in the halopyridine monomer occurring readily. Therefore, a halopyridinium derivative, a top priority target in a nucleophilic attack by a halopyridine monomer, is separately synthesized in the polymerization reaction of the present invention and is used as the initiator. As shown in the Examples, a narrow molecular weight distribution and a desired molecular weight can be achieved by allowing prioritized growth from the initiator to occur in a temperature range in which a halopyridine self-catalyzed thermal polymerization does not occur. Therefore, the polymerization reaction of the present invention satisfies the conditions of chain polycondensation reactions.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is the ¹H-NMR for 4-ClPy used as a monomer in the Examples.

Figure 2 is the FT-IR for the 4-ClPy used as a monomer in the Examples. Ar-Cl stretching vibration: 1102.1 cm⁻¹; C=C ring stretching motion: 1404.4, 1480.6 and 1566.9 cm⁻¹.

Figure 3 is the $^1\text{H-NMR}$ for the t-BBPy used as the polymerization initiator in the Examples.

Figure 4 is the FT-IR for the t-BBPy used as the polymerization initiator in the Examples. Ar-Cl stretching vibration: 1108.4 cm^{-1} ; C=C ring stretching motion: $1452.6, 1496.0, 1567.4$ and 1634.9 cm^{-1} ; Methyl C-H stretching motion: 2960.2 cm^{-1} .

Figure 5 is the $^1\text{H-NMR}$ for the polypyridinium synthesized in the Examples.

Figure 6 shows the relationship between the monomer conversion ratio in a 4-ClPy polymerization reaction and the average molecular weight of the polypyridinium polymer. The open circles \circ indicate Example 1 (used an initiator) and filled circles \bullet indicate Comparative Example 1 (no initiator used).

Figure 7 is the gel chromatography for the polymer.

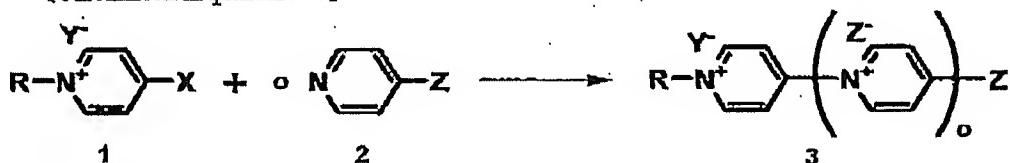
Figure 8 shows the time dependent changes for the 4-ClPy conversion ratio and polypyridinium average molecular weight.

Detailed Description of the Invention

[0008]

The reaction of the present invention is represented by the equation below, where R' in chemical formulas 1 and 2 is a hydrogen atom.

[Chemical Equation 4]



That is, polypyridinium 3 having a narrow molecular weight distribution and a desired molecular weight is synthesized by allowing a pyridine derivative monomer 2 to polymerize on a specially designed polymerization initiator 1 in the presence of a dissolution accelerating agent that dissolves the formed polymer in a solvent. In the equation, o is about 1 to 300 and other abbreviations will be explained later.

[0009]

The polymerization initiator of the present invention is a halopyridine derivatives with enhanced electrophilicity in the position four carbon in a halopyridine derivative, which is represented by the chemical formula below.

[Chemical Formula 1]



[0010]

R represents R''(CH₂)_n or an aryl group or a heterocyclic ring that may contain substituents,

R'' represents a hydrocarbon group or a heterocyclic group. This hydrocarbon group refers to an alkyl group, a linear hydrocarbon group containing double bonds, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group or an aralkyl group.

n represents an integer at least 1, preferably 1 to 3 and most preferably 1.

R' represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, a nitro group or an ester group substituent or an aromatic ring forming a

condensed ring with a pyridine ring, and a hydrogen atom is preferred. As the aromatic ring that forms a condensed ring with a pyridine ring, a benzene ring or a naphthalene ring may be cited and a benzene ring is preferred. When a pyridine ring forms a condensed ring with one benzene ring, the condensed ring is a quinoline ring. When a pyridine ring forms a condensed ring with two benzene rings, the condensed ring is an acrydine ring. These aromatic rings may also contain one or multiple numbers of the substituents listed above.

m represents an integer of 1 to 4. However, m is 1 when the condensed ring described above is a quinoline ring, and m is 2 in the case of acrydine.

[0011]

The aryl group is preferably a phenyl group or a naphthyl group.

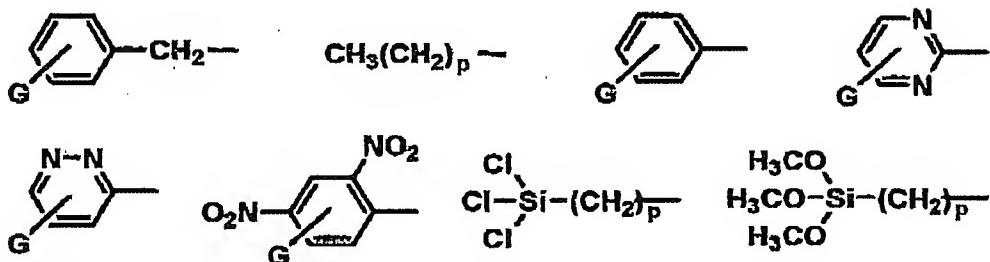
The heterocyclic group is preferably a heterocyclic group containing N, O or S. As the heterocyclic group, monocyclic heterocyclic groups such as a furyl group, a thienyl group, a pyrrolyl group, an imidazolyl group, a pyrazolyl group, a thiazolyl group, an isothiazolyl group, an oxazolyl group, an isoxazolyl group, a triazolyl group, an oxadiazolyl group, a thiadiazolyl group, a tetrazolyl group, a pyridyl group, a pyrimidinyl group, a pyridazinyl group, a pyradinyl group and the like or polycyclic heterocyclic groups obtained by a ring condensation of these monocyclic heterocyclic groups amongst themselves or with an aromatic ring such as a benzene ring, a naphthalene ring and the like may be cited. Of these, heterocyclic groups containing nitrogen are preferred. In the polymerization initiator, the carbon atom of this heterocyclic group needs to be bonded to the nitrogen atom of the pyridine ring.

These aryl groups and heterocyclic groups may also contain one or multiple numbers of substituents. As these substituents, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an amino group, a nitro group, a silyl group (-SR'''s: R''' may be identical or different and represents hydrogen groups, hydroxyl groups, alkyl groups, halogen atoms, alkoxy groups and the like) and the like may be cited.

[0012]

The following groups may be cited as examples of R,

[Chemical Formula 5]



where G represents a substituent and p represents an integer.

[0013]

X represents a halogen atom and preferably represents a chlorine atom or a bromine atom.

Y represents an anion dissolved in an organic solvent used in this reaction. As such an anion, a halide ion, a perchlorate ion, a tetrafluoroborate ion, a hexafluorophosphate ion, a tetraphenylborate ion and the like may be cited.

[0014]

In addition, the monomer used in the present invention is represented by the following chemical formula.

[Chemical Formula 2]



In the formula, Z represents a halogen atom, preferably a chlorine atom or a bromine atom. R' and m are independently similarly defined as above.

[0015]

The dissolution accelerating agent used in the present invention functions to enable the synthesis of a high molecular weight polypyridinium with a narrow molecular weight distribution by efficiently ion exchanging the halide ion released as the polymerization progresses with a hydrophobic anion and making the polymer formed soluble in the organic solvent to allow the polymerization reaction to progress uniformly and comprises a hydrophobic anion. This hydrophobic anion is, for example, a perchlorate ion, a tetrafluoroborate ion, a hexafluorophosphate ion, a tartarate ion, a citrate ion, a nicotinate ion, a phosphate ion containing a binaphthyl group and the like. In addition, this dissolution accelerating agent may be identical to the anion (Y) dissolved in the organic solvent described above, but dissolution of an even higher concentration of a polymer material is required. As far as this solubility is concerned, the more soluble the better as long as it is specifically at least 0.01 mole/liter.

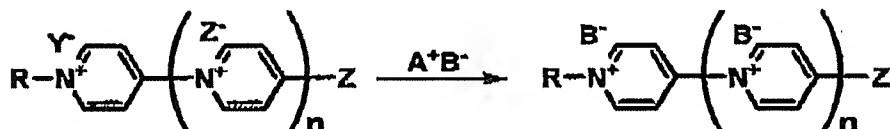
[0016]

This type of hydrophobic anion may be obtained by adding the following dissolution accelerating agent to a reaction system. As such a dissolution accelerating agent, for example, tetrabutyl ammonium perchlorate, tetrabutyl ammonium tetrafluoroborate, tetrabutyl ammonium hexafluorophosphate, sodium perchlorate, sodium tetrafluoroborate, sodium hexafluorophosphate, tetraethylammonium perchlorate, tetraethylammonium tetrafluoroborate, tetraethylammonium hexafluorophosphate, sodium tetraphenylborate, sodium p-toluenesulfonate, sodium alkylsulfonate having 6 to 24 carbon atoms, sodium alkylphosphate having 6 to 24 carbon atoms, phospholipids having 6 to 24 carbon atoms and the like may be cited.

[0017]

When a dissolution accelerating agent (AB) is not used, the halide ion (Z⁻) freed from the monomer as the polymerization progresses forms an anion with the polymer to decrease the solubility, thus separating out from the reaction solution immediately after the polymerization and eliminating the hope of increasing the degree of polymerization. However, when a dissolution accelerating agent is added, the ion exchange reaction (Z⁻; Y⁻ → B⁻) of the following equation is thought to occur maintaining the solubility of the polymerized material.

[Chemical Equation 6]



In the equation, AB represents a dissolution accelerating agent, and B⁻ represents a hydrophobic anion. Other abbreviations are as defined above.

[0018]

As the organic solvent used in the present invention, polar solvents, which is solvents with high dielectric constant, suited for dissolving ionic compounds are preferred and non-polar solvents are not preferred. Water is a good solvent for ionic compounds but is not desirable since polypyridinium is decomposed in aqueous solutions. As such a solvent, methanol, ethanol, isopropyl alcohol, acetone, acetonitrile, pyridine, dioxane, dimethyl sulfoxide, dimethyl formamide, ethyl acetate, propylene carbonate, chloroform, methylene chloride, sulfolane, acetic acid, nitromethane, nitrobenzene and the like, for example, may be cited.

[0019]

The concentration of the dissolution accelerating agent in a reaction solution depends on the degree of solubility in the polymerization solvent, but it is ordinarily from about 0.01 mole/liter to 5.0 moles/liter. The concentration of the anion (Y) dissolved in an organic solvent is about the same as the concentration of the dissolution accelerating agent.

The concentration of the polymerization initiator in a reaction solution is ordinarily from 0.0001 mole/liter to 5.0 moles/liter, but it is preferable to set the concentration according to the addition ratio, which is the ratio of the amounts present of a monomer to an initiator.

The monomer concentration in a reaction solution is set according to the addition ratio, which is the ratio of the amounts present of a monomer to an initiator, but it is, for example, from 0.01 mole/liter to 5.0 moles/liter.

However, the upper limits of these concentrations are limited by the degrees of solubility in the solvent used.

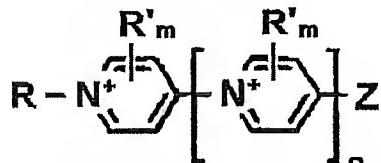
The reaction temperature is ordinarily from about 0°C to 70°C, preferably about 10°C to 70°C.

In addition, the polymerization rate is proportional to the product of the concentrations of the polymerization initiator and the monomer and is dependent on the added concentrations of both. Furthermore, the polymerization rate is also changed extensively by the polymerization temperature. Therefore, the reaction time may be from several minutes to several days.

[0020]

Polypyridinium represented by the following chemical formula may be produced using the production method above.

[Chemical Formula 3]



In the formula R, Z, R' and m are as defined above. n is from 1 to 300.

[0021]

The following Examples illustrate the present invention, but it is not intended to restrict the scope of the present invention.

Synthesis Example 1 (Monomer synthesis)

4-Chloropyridine hydrochloride (Kanto Kagaku, 5.0 g, 33.0 mmoles) was dissolved in 10 ml of pure water, and a 5.0 weight % aqueous sodium bicarbonate solution was used to neutralize the solution using an ice bath. The 4-chloropyridine formed was extracted using ether (50 ml, three times) and was dried using magnesium sulfate. The ether solution was distilled under reduced pressure using an ice bath, and 3.44 g (91% yield) of 4-chloropyridine (4-CIPy), a colorless and clear liquid, was obtained. The product was identified using ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d₆) and FT-IR (KBr pellet). The ¹H-NMR is shown in Figure 1, and the FT-IR is shown in Figure 2.

[0022]

Synthesis Example 2 (Polymerization initiator synthesis)

The 4-CIPy (0.26 g, 2.3 mmoles) obtained in Synthesis Example 1 was gradually added dropwise to 4-tert-butylbenzyl bromide (Wako Junyaku, 5.20 g, 23.0 mmoles), and the reaction mixture was agitated for five hours at room temperature. The yellow solids that separated out were filtered, washed with ether and recrystallized using ethanol to obtain N-(4'-tert-butylbenzyl)-4-chloropyridinium (t-BBPy). The yield was 0.76 g (97% yield). The product was identified using ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d₆) and FT-IR (KBr pellet). The ¹H-NMR is shown in Figure 3, and the FT-IR is shown in Figure 4.

Example 1

[0023]

The t-BBPy (3.0 mg, 0.009 mmoles) obtained in Synthesis Example 2 and tetrabutyl ammonium tetrafluoroborate (TBABF₄, manufactured by Tokyo Kasei, 197 mg, 0.598 mmole) were dissolved in 0.1 ml of acetonitrile, and the solution was added to a test tube containing 4-CIPy (57 mg, 0.50 mmole) obtained in Synthesis Example 1. After the mixture was heated for thirty minutes at 60°C, the conversion rate reached 80% and the polymerization progressed in a uniform system. The reaction system was allowed to cool to room temperature, and the solvent was removed using distillation. The yellow brown solids obtained were washed using ether and were dried under vacuum at room temperature. The average degree of polymerization of the polypyridinium was calculated to be 52 based on the ¹H-NMR. The structure of the polypyridinium was identified by ¹H-NMR (DMSO-d₆). The ¹H-NMR is shown in Figure 5.

[0024]

This polymer (polypyridinium) was a polycation, and its molecular weight was difficult to calculate reliably using the current analytical technology. However, ¹H-NMR and gel chromatography were used to obtain the following experimental facts.

The average molecular weight could be calculated using a quantitative terminal analysis since the structure of one of the termini of the polymer is derived from the initiator t-BBPy. More specifically, the protons of the t-butyl group appearing at about 1.3 ppm in the ¹H-NMR and the protons of the polymer polypyridinium appearing from 6 ppm to 10 ppm were examined, and the average molecular weight was calculated using the ratio of the integrated areas of both. As a result, as shown in Figure 6, the average molecular weight was seen increasing with the increasing monomer conversion ratio.

[0025]

Furthermore, a gel chromatography of the polymer was conducted using a packed GPC column (Showa Denko, Asahipak GF-810 HQ) suitable for use with both aqueous and organic solvents and suited for separation and analysis of hydrophilic substances that are not retained by a reverse phase column. As shown in Figure 7, an elution curve was obtained on the high molecular weight side of the exclusion limit molecular weight (40,000). An accurate molecular weight and the molecular weight distribution could not be obtained since a polycationic standard substance with a known molecular weight was not available, but the molecular weight distribution was shown to be narrow.

Example 2

[0026]

The t-BBPy (1.0 mg, 0.0036 mmole) obtained in Synthesis Example 2 and TBABF₄ (manufactured by Tokyo Kasei, 79 mg, 0.24 mmole) were dissolved in 0.4 ml of dimethyl sulfoxide, and the solution was added to an NMR tube to which 4-ClPy (11 mg, 0.10 mmole) obtained in Synthesis Example 1 had been added. The polymerization was allowed to proceed at 40°C, and the system was checked every thirty minutes. The time dependent changes in the 4-ClPy conversion ratio and polypyridinium average molecular weight are shown in Figure 8. In the figure, A shows the time dependent changes in the 4-ClPy conversion ratio and B shows the time dependent changes in the average molecular weight of the polypyridinium.

[0027]

Comparative Example 1

The same reaction described in Example 1 was allowed to occur without using a polymerization initiator (t-BBPy). As shown in Figure 6, the polymerization reaction did not proceed within the accuracy of the measurement.

[0028]

Comparative Example 2

The same reaction described in Example 1 was allowed to occur without using a dissolution accelerating agent (TBABF₄), and the polymerization reaction proceeded in a heterogeneous system. The yellow brown solids that separated out were filtered, washed using ether and dried. The average molecular weight could not be calculated using ¹H-NMR due to the low solubility of the product present in the form of a polycation anion pair with the halide ion, and thermal polymerization in the absence of an initiator resulted in a broad molecular weight distribution.

Industrial Applicability

[0029]

The polypyridinium obtained according to the production method of the present invention can be utilized as an electrode material with a function to store electrical power and an electrolytic material utilizing anion conductance, as a capacitor material utilizing high dielectricity, as a conjugated polymer with a giant dipole in the direction of the main chain in non-linear optical materials and ferroelectric materials, as an electrochromic material utilizing its multiple stage oxidation-reduction properties in display devices, as a conjugated polymer with a

capability to form external site controlling type polyyradicals in magnetic materials and as a disinfectant and the like.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for producing polypyridinium comprising reacting
(1) a polymerization initiator represented by the chemical formula below
[Chemical Formula 1]



where R represents R"(CH₂)_n-, wherein R" represents a hydrocarbon group or a heterocyclic group and n represents an integer that is at least one, or an aryl group or a heterocyclic ring that may contain substituents, however, the heterocyclic group has its carbon atom bonded to the nitrogen atom in the pyridine ring, R' represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkoxy group, a halogen atom, a nitro group, an ester group or an aromatic ring forming a condensed ring with the pyridine ring, m is an integer from 1 to 4, X represents a halogen atom and Y represents an anion soluble in the organic solvent, with

- (2) a monomer represented by the chemical formula below,
[Chemical Formula 2]



where Z represents a halogen atom, and R' and m are, independently, defined as above,
in an organic solvent in the presence of a dissolution accelerating agent comprising hydrophobic anions.

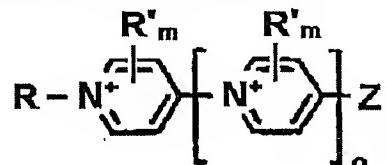
2. The method of claim 1 wherein Y- is a halide ion, perchlorate ion, tetrafluoroborate ion, hexafluorophosphate ion or tetraphenyl borate ion, X and Y are chlorine atoms or bromine atoms, and the hydrophobic anion is a perchlorate ion, a tetrafluoroborate ion, a hexafluorophosphate ion, a tartarate ion, a citrate ion, a nicotinate ion, or a phosphate ion containing a binaphthyl group.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the dissolution accelerating agent is tetrabutylammonium perchlorate, tetrabutylammonium tetrafluoroborate, tetrabutylammonium hexafluorophosphate, sodium perchlorate, sodium tetrafluoroborate, sodium hexafluorophosphate, tetraethylammonium perchlorate, tetraethylammonium tetrafluoroborate, tetraethylammonium hexafluorophosphate, sodium tetraphenylborate, sodium p-toluenesulfonate, sodium alkylsulfonate having 6 to 24 carbon atoms, sodium alkylphosphate having 6 to 24 carbon atoms, or phospholipids having 6 to 24 carbon atoms.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein the dissolution accelerating agent is tetrabutylammonium tetrafluoroborate.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the polymerization initiator is N-(4'-tert-butylbenzyl)-4-chloropyridinium and the monomer is 4-chloropyridine.

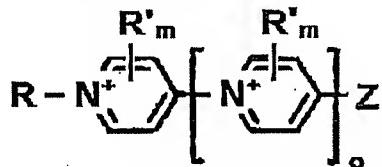
6. A polypyridinium produced by the method of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the polypyridinium is represented by the chemical formula below,
[Chemical Formula 3]



where R, Z, R' and m are as defined above and o is 1 to 300.

Abstract

A production method for polypyridinium having a regulated molecular weight. Polypyridinium represented by the chemical formula below,
[Chemical Formula 3]



where \circ is 1 to 300, is produced by reacting a polymerization initiator with a monomer represented by the chemical formula below,
[Chemical Formula 2]



where Z represents a halogen atom, and R' represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent.

Figure 1

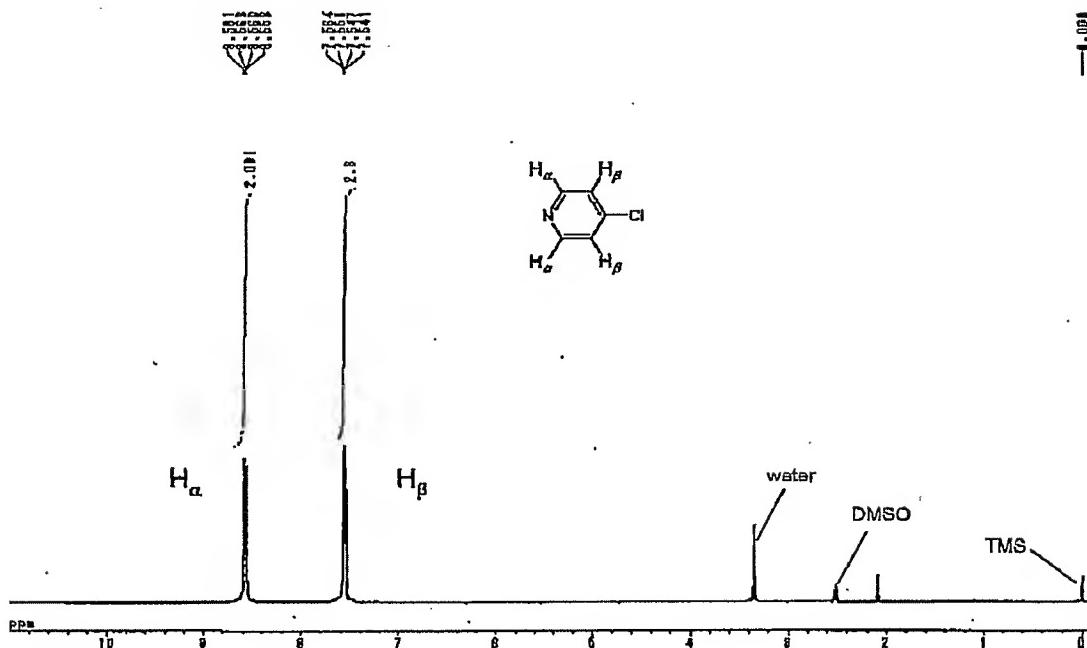


Figure 2

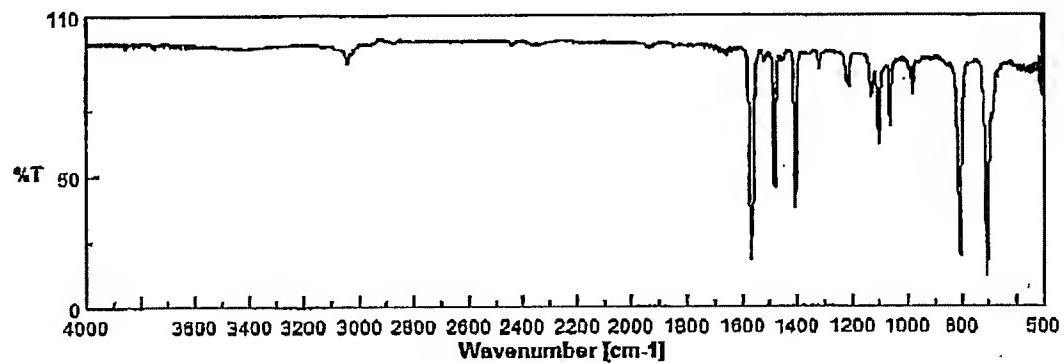


Figure 3

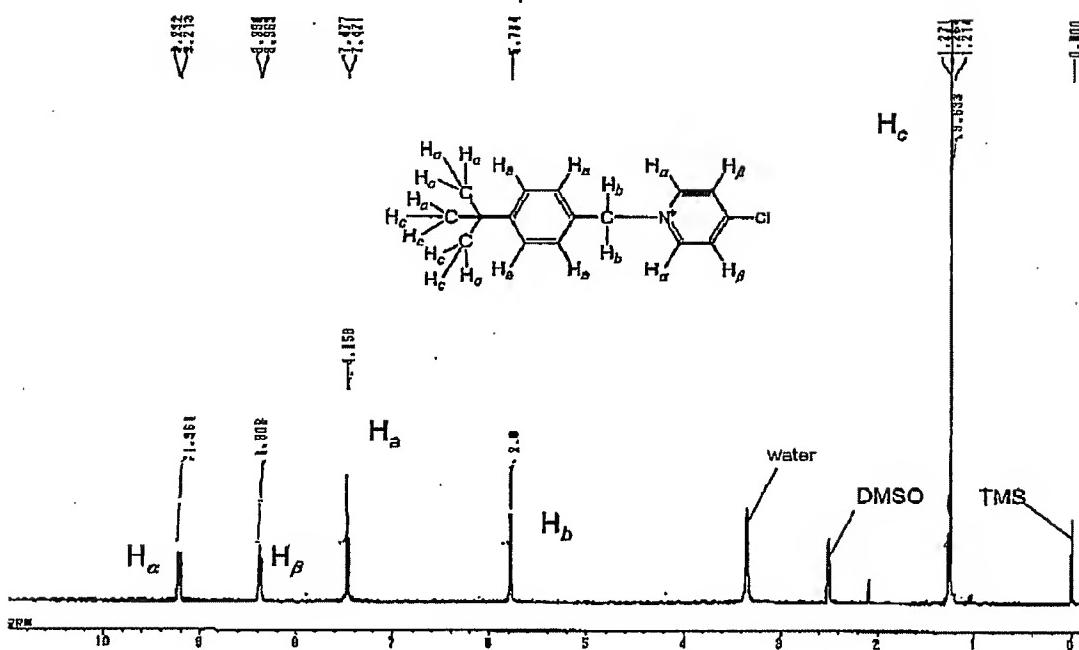


Figure 4

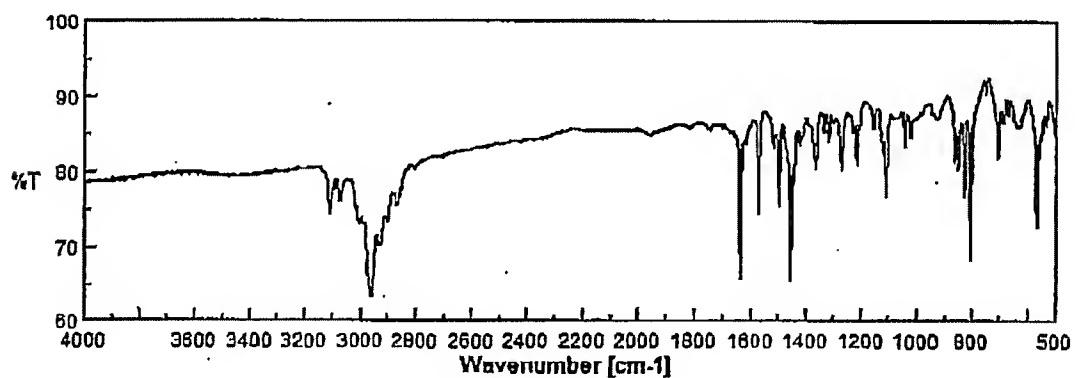


Figure 5

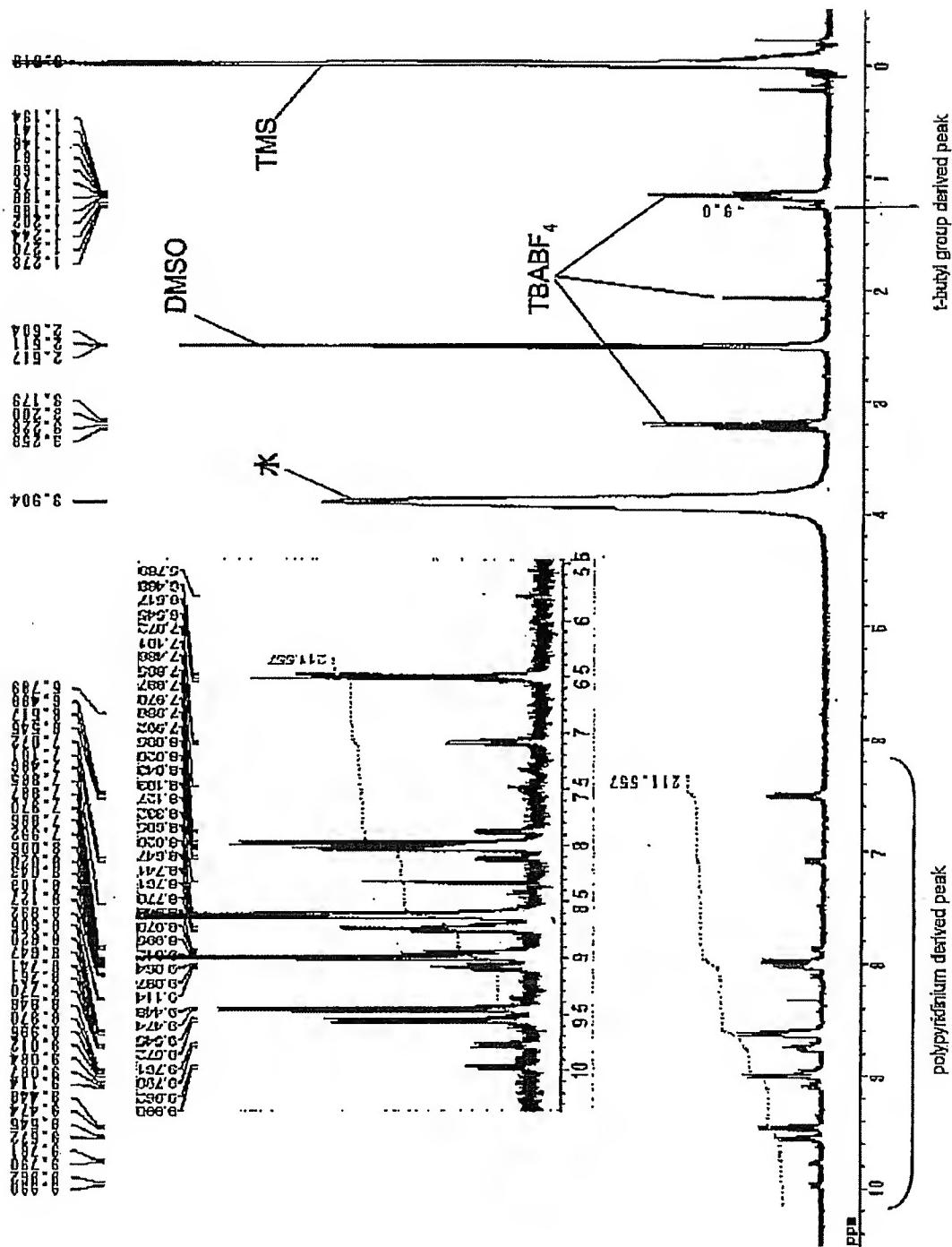


Figure 6

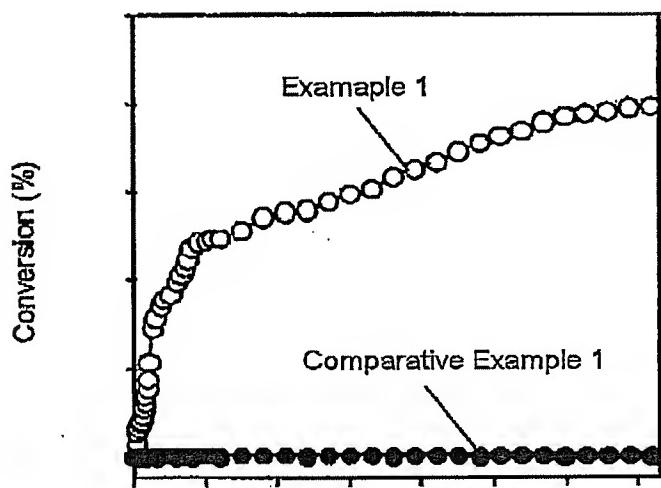


Figure 7

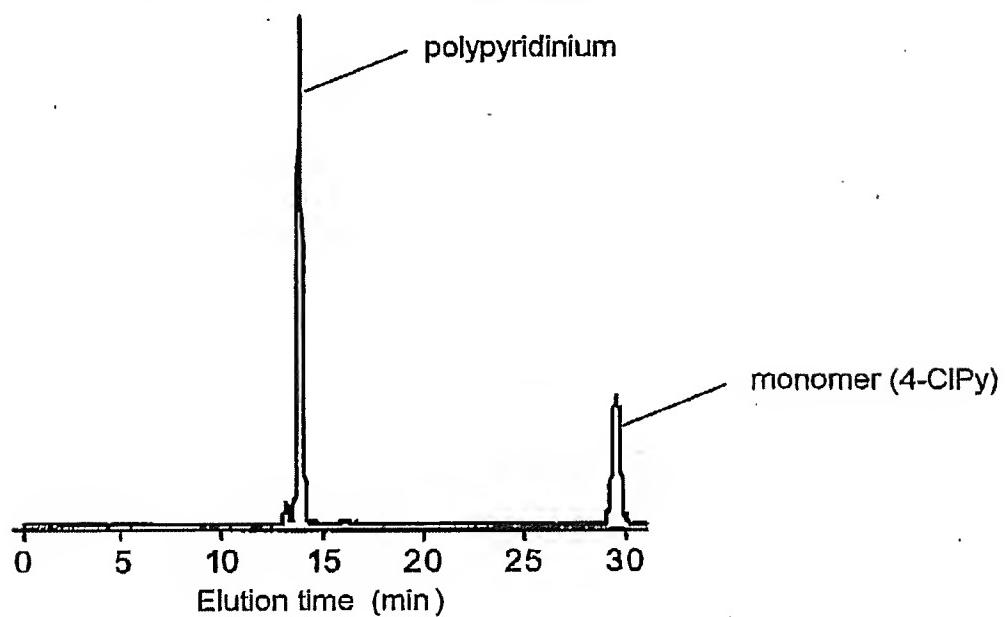


Figure 8

